

**I**T being sufficiently nottous in this part of the Countrey where Mr Clanny hath lived for several years, that especially since the breaking out of the Scandal of Adultery with his Servant Woman *Elisabeth Dickson*, he hath been much addicted to lying, not only in his privat Converse, but even in his publick Appearances before Ecclesiastical Judicatories; several instances whereof are recorded in the Synod Book of *Dumfries*, for which amongst other gross Immoralities, he was deposed by them December 1696, as the Process it self when published will clearly evince, that we are not surpris'd with his emitting a printed Paper, stufft with Lies in almost every other Line, and with such an unparalleled Impudence, as that he dares to present it to the highest Judicatory of this Nation. But least these who are not acquainted with this mans Character, may be unwarrily imposed upon, and thereby apprehend his calumnious Allengiances to be Verities, we in as far as concerns us have thought it necessary to discover the falshood of his confident Assertions in his printed Supplication, as they ly in order.

1. Whereas he alledges that he was not cited before the Presbytrie when that scandal of his Adultery was first tabled; it's Answered, that tho they could easily have cited him by their Officer according to the common form, yet out of brotherly respect, they rather choose to require his presence that day by the Moderators Letter in their Name, to hear and answer to what that Woman had to say against him, which Letter he acknowledged to have received, so that it evidently appears (while he asserts he was not cited) that instead of a return of gratitude for their Lenity, he maliciously improves it against them.

2. That the Presbytry prest any to depone against him *super inquirendis*, is most false, neither was any taken sworn till he had sufficient Information of the particular Scandal, with the Names of the Witnesses, and liberty to object, likewise that the Synod judged the Presbytrie censurable upon that head, is a great Untruth, also he himself was present at several of the Witnesses their Depositions, and when otherwise, it was his own fault, and that upon any account they weretwice Synodically rebuked, is not Truth.

3. That the Presbytrie held a Visitation at *Kirkbean* without previous Intimation, that they prest Young and Old to accuse him, and that he was not admitted to speak for himself, are all of them Forgeries, being contrary to the expresse words of our Presbyteries Records; *Bearing*, that Intimation was duely made, and that after Sermon several of the Heretors, Elders and other Parochiners voluntarily appeared against him, and that he was called in and heard before his Accusers, declaring *coram*, that to be heard on these Heads, was the thing he desired, that our Proceedings then had influence on his Wifes being brought to Bed of a dead Child, is groundlessly alledged, since she was confined to her Chamber a considerable time before, and it were egregious Folly to fancy that we could foresee that such an uncertain Event would fall out upon our coming there.

4. His subsequent Assertions are of the same Coin with the former, for the Petition given in with the Grievances against him to the Presbytry, and by them transmitted to the Synod, was subscribed by many hands at *Kirkbean*, and was never once quarrelled by him before the Synod, the principal Subscribers being then present to own them: And that which he calls a Protestation of the honourable Patron, (who being generally looked upon as Popish, never did him the honour to hear him preach during the whole time of his Ministry in that Paroch) was only a missive Letter subscribed by him and the Lady *Cavens*, and produced by Mr. Clanny not while the Affair was in agitation, but after all the Complaints were examined & cognosced upon by the Synod, a very little space before the Sentence was past. But we cannot but here remark this mans juggling & subtile Endeavours to conceal his Deposition by the reverend Synod levelling most of his envenomed Arrows at the Presbytry) who having deliberately delivered all that he could any ways object against the Witnesses & Address, judged them by their Vote sustainable, and found as much of the Libel against him proven (whatever he thinks) as merited the sentence past against him, and that any of the Brethren of the Synod protested against it is neither recorded nor remembered.

5. Farther as to his Appeal from the sentence of the reverend Synod to the General Assembly 1697, he strangely prevaricats; for the Clerk having been at the pains to extract his Process, being seven Sheets of Paper, he wrote by his sister in Law, that it was ready for him, and that he should have it upon Demand, which was testified before him at the ensuing Synod, but to that Assembly he never came, as being (it would seem) conscious of the weakness of his Cause; And tho he pretends that his Wifes Circumstances could not allow him to go to *Edinburgh*, yet he could Journey at the same time for *London*, to Print his scurrolous Pamphlet, (which we intend to answer) and remained there for several Moneths when she was in as bad a Condition. That the Synod April 1697 refused the Cognition of his process, was most just and reasonable, in regard that his Appall to the General Assembly had taken the Affair out of their Hands.



6. He brings in an Nonfensical Story of three Youths, by advice subscribed, &c. entering his House, the rise whereof, so far as we know is this, that some of the Heretors with a Nottar publick, went to require him to remove from the Manse at the Term, his Residence there being prejudicial to the planting of the Paroch, and it was the Opinion of the Presbytery, that some fit person should be chosen by them to uplift the vacand Stipend, for such pious uses as should be afterward condescended upon within the Paroch; As to the threatning of his Wife, her falling dead, and their reteiring, &c. This we are assured is rather the effect of his airy flanting Temper, than any truth in matter of Fact.

7. He Mentions an Oath which he offered himself, and another which the Presbytery required of him for his Purgation from the foresaid Scandel with the same ingenuity that is Ordinar to him, for the Oath which he offered, considered in all its Circumstances, was rather a Presumption of his Guilt, than a mean of his Vindication; For tho' he had been informed of the flagrancy of that Scandel through this Countrey, he took journey to *Edinburgh*, and there remained six or seven Weeks, notwithstanding he was again advertised by some Bretheren that the noise of his Scandel was dayly spreading; But he pretending, that he had urgent Affairs there, which (it seems) he thought preferable to the Credit of the Gospel and his own Fame, he sent the Presbytery a Letter with a subscribed Oath of Purgation, in such Terms as he himself thought fit, and that before the Woman had judicially fixed Guilt upon him, withall desiring the Presbytery would register in their Books this his subscribed Oath, and publickly intimate it for his vindication. But the Presbytery judging the thing unreasonable, and that his design was to stop their further Inquiry anent that Scandell, they did not so much as judicially read it. The Presbytery considering his Temper and Carriage thought fit to offer him ane Oath with conditional and dredfull enough Imprecations, which he alledged to be unwarrantable, such Answers by appointment of the Synod were returned to his Scruples against it as did demonstrate they were unanswerable by him as being well founded upon Scripture, Reason, Antiquity, and the Practice of this Church. And (to let the world know his impudent lying) the Reverend Commission of the General Assembly, in steid of rejecting our Form of Oath as Antiscriptural though they ommitted the Scripture Citations that we mentioned, yet they returned it back with the same conditional Imprecations that were in it before, but to catch him in his own Snare, if the Reverend Commission judged our Form Antiscriptural then sure they judged that which they sent hither to be Scriptural; And if so why did he refuse it; when it was delivered to him by Appointment of the Synod upon his return from *England*; But it easily appears, that whether it be Scriptural or Antiscriptural he cannot digest the Tenor of it as an innocent man would readily do.

8. As for his Appeal to the General Assembly, *January 1698*, and the renewing of his Request to the Commission of the Assembly, *March 1698*. Is a thing altogether unknown to us, altho' we had our Commissioners present at both, and if his offer upon the perril of his life to prove by several Ministers and Elders of the Synod of *Drumfreis*, that the witnesses adduced against him were scandalous and perjured Persons, and that our Minuts are illegal Mank, &c. If this we say his bantering offer should succeed as ill as several others of that nature formerly both before Presbyteries and Synods, we are sure he is a gone man, for never man was so pitifully confounded before Judicatories as he hath been when brought to the Pulp; And it is expressly marked in the Records of the Synod to bring in his witnesses to prove his Exceptions against the Presbytery of *Drumfreis* in general their Registers & some of the Brethren of that Presbytery in particular, yet he never offered to do it: and indeed it hath been this poor mans ordinar Misfortune, that when he boasted most with high swelling clamorous words, he was most necessarily obliged to succumb and found it hard enough to deduce his brazen Brows to the former set of Confidence; But he who publickly denyes his hand write as he did before the Synod, when he disowned his subscribed Testificat which *Elspeth Dickon* produced with the Guineas which she had received from him, when he sent her for *Ireland*, and stands not to blind the world by frequent vareing from his ordinary Subscriptions since the commencing of this process, what Calumnies will he not publickly vent? with that false Tongue & Print, with that falsifying hand, his late abominable pamphlet replet with such Expressions as are unworthy of a man of sense or breeding, not to say Honour and Religion, doth as much resemble him for its parent as he doth therein him that is the Father of lyes: But we are wearied to defile our pens, or detain the Reader with a Subject so unpleasant, and would not have said so much if he whom we deal with were not a person so palpably dishonourable to GOD and the Profession of the glorious Gospel, his foul Vices, are such a stain to the holy Ministry an Occasion of hardning the Atheisticall and prophane Deboachers, and matter of extrem Grief to the serious Godly, and he by these his sad Miscariages is set up as a Beacon to warn others and oblige them to the study of more Humility, Sobriety, Purity and *holiness* in the fear of GOD, than hath been observed in him.